

*W. Stevens* 6/13/03  
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2930 /1781 (AZ-931)

June 19, 2003

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Ex. 6

Dear Ex. 6

Thank you for your February 26, 2003, letter to Senator John McCain in which you shared information about the development of web-based reservation systems within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Senator McCain has expressed his appreciation and requested that we prepare a direct response to you.

As you are aware, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recently issued direction regarding the development of a single system for reservation and other recreation transaction needs. You may be unaware that this direction is described in a memorandum from OMB (M-03-03) titled, "Improving Customer Service by Establishing a One-Stop Recreation Reservation System." This direction was a result of requirements that OMB must perform under Section 5113 of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996. To perform the requirements, OMB is to find opportunities to consolidate resource management practices of executive Agencies with respect to the performance and results of information technology investments. During one such analysis OMB identified two Federal recreation reservation systems that could be consolidated; these belonged to the Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers. Accordingly, OMB designated their National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) as "an executive agent for Government-wide acquisitions of information technology" for recreation reservation systems under Section 5112(e) of the Clinger-Cohen Act. The NRRS was directed to ensure there is a single reservation system for the public in October 2003.

OMB's direction further states that, "In addition to the Park Service, the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management... will be included in the single recreation system for their reservation and other recreation transaction needs."

These instructions have caused a shift in BLM priorities and on-line recreation services development. Policies to define what can be included in the NRRS system are currently under development, including the testing of challenging permitting scenarios that are so familiar to the Bureau. Our understanding is that the results of the testing program (designed to meet the October 2003 deadline) will determine the extent the Bureau will be authorized to develop

on-line services outside of the single system. Until the limits of the NRRS capability are determined, all requests for investment in Bureau-specific system development, *especially* a functioning *national* system, are being denied.

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, the Arizona and Washington Offices of the BLM are keenly grateful for your development and design skills evident in the creation of our existing reservation systems. Had it not been for your efforts, BLM would not have a standard to which to test the functionality of the NRRS. We encourage you to remain in close contact with our staff. As the Bureau moves further towards contracting operations, we hope that continued opportunities for further development, perhaps in additional arenas, will arise.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joanie Losacco

for Elaine Y. Zielinski  
State Director

Enclosure - filed in subject code 2930

cc: Honorable John McCain, Washington Office  
bcc: WO-615, (MS 406C), LS